

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 08255 01 OF 03 211350Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 DPW-01 EB-11 OMB-01 AGR-20 COME-00

TRSE-00 SR-02 ORM-03 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /186 W

----- 107636

P R 211145Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6063

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA

CINCPAC

CIMFPACAF

CO 7 PSYOPS GP

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 08255 01 OF 03 211350Z

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USDAO/SAIGON

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 8255 NOFORN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR ECON VS
SUBJ: EMBASSY SAIGON'S NORTH VIET-NAM BI-WEEKLY

BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W; CINCPAC FOR POLAD;
DOD FOR USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS-WL-DSA

BEGIN SECRET/NOFORN

SUMMARY: IN AN EFFORT TO BOOST SAGGING MORALE HANOI HAS REPORTEDLY INSTITUTED A HOME LEAVE POLICY WHEREBY HIGHER RANKING MILITARYMEN IN THE SOUTH ARE ALLOWED SIX MONTHS LEAVE TO VISIT THEIR FAMILIES IN THE NORTH. MORALE PROBLEMS ALSO RECEIVED OBLIQUE ATTENTION IN NLF CHAIRMAN NGUYEN HUU THO'S SPEECH MARKING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "PRG" BUT PRESENTATIONS BY HUYNH TAN PHAT AND THE DRV'S NGUYEN DUY TRINH WERE DECIDEDLY UPBEAT. THE NORTHERN ECONOMY IS IN BAD SHAPE AND A BELOW AVERAGE FIFTH MONTH RICE HARVEST WILL MAKE THINGS EVEN WORSE. LIVING CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE AND NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY FEAR THAT THE REGIME'S QUITE LIMITED PROGRESS IN RESTORING THE BASIC ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE WILL FORCE POSTPONEMENT OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN 1976. DAO THIEN THU, A VIRTUAL UNKNOWN, IS THE DRV'S NEW MINISTER OF FINANCE. THANKS LARGELY TO CHINESE AID, RADIO HANOI IS PREPARED TO RESUME BROADCASTING AT THE LEVEL PREVAILING BEFORE THE DECEMBER 1972 US BOMBING FORCED A CUT IN THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF PROGRAMMING. THE COMMUNISTS ARE APPARENTLY INCENSED AT THE IDEA THAT THE US IS PLANNING A LONG-TERM AID PROGRAM FOR SOUTH VIET-NAM AND HAVE ACCUSED SECRETARY KISSINGER OF A BREACH OF SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SAIGON 08255 01 OF 03 211350Z

FAITH OVER HIS ASSERTION THAT THE US IS POLITICALLY AND ETHICALLY COMMITTED TO AID THE GVN IN THE POST-AGREEMENT PERIOD. HANOI'S AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW AND PEKING HAVE BEEN SUMMONED HOME AND THE PARTY'S NUMBER-TWO MAN, TRUONG CHINH, HAS RETURNED AFTER A THREE-WEEK TRIP TO EASTERN EUROPE. HANOI IS HOSTING TWO LAO DELEGATIONS; AN RLG GROUP WHICH WILL CONCLUDE A CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT AND AN LPF POSTAL SERVICE DELEGATION WHICH WILL RUBBER STAMP A POSTAL AGREEMENT. VIET CONG FOREIGN MINISTER, FLUSHED FROM

HER DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH AT THE OAU SUMMIT (MALAGASY RECOGNIZED THE "PRG"), IS VISITING ANOTHER FRIENDLY POWER, SOUTH YEMEN. END SUMMARY.

PART I: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTH

A. HOME LEAVE FOR PRIVILEGED NVA TROOPS.

1. BECAUSE OF MORALE PROBLEMS AMONG NVA TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, THE COMMUNIST HIGH COMMAND REPORTEDLY HAS INSTITUTED A HOME LEAVE POLICY WHEREBY PERSONNEL ARE GRANTED SIX MONTHS LEAVE TIME TO VISIT THEIR FAMILIES IN THE NORTH. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, RECEPTION CENTERS ARE BEING BUILT IN COMMUNIST ENCLAVES IN THE SOUTH TO PERMIT VISITS BY NORTH VIETNAMESE FAMILIES. BOTH PROGRAMS WERE INSTITUTED IN SEPTEMBER 1973 UNDER A DIRECTIVE OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM (COSVN). SINCE THEN, INTELLIGENCE SOURCES HAVE SHOWN A MARKED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF EXFILTRATORS TO NORTH VIETNAM, AS COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS DRY SEASON PERIODS (THE DRY SEASON ALONG INFILTRATION CORRIDORS IN LAOS LASTS FROM A SEPTEMBER OF ONE YEAR TO APRIL OF THE NEXT). ALTOGETHER, SOME 35,-40,000 PERSONNEL WERE DETECTED GOING NORTH OVER THE PAST 9 MONTHS; UNDOUBTEDLY SOME OF THESE WERE SOLDIERS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF LEAVE ALLOWANCES.

2. THE LEAVE POLICY IS VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED. SIGNIFICANTLY, THE ONLY PERSONNEL WHO CURRENTLY QUALIFY FOR ITS BENEFITS ARE NVA CADRE OF BATTALION COMMAND RANK OR HIGHER. THIS SUGGESTS THAT WIDELY REPORTED MORALE DIFFICULTIES MAY BE REACHING INTO THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE COMMUNIST COMMAND STRUCTURE. END SECRET/NOFORN.

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SAIGON 08255 01 OF 03 211350Z

B. THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS MARKED THE 5TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE SO-CALLED "PRG" WITH CEREMONIES IN COMMUNIST-OCCUPIED NORTHERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE AND IN HANOI. THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE QUANG TRI FESTIVITIES WAS DELIVERED BY NLFSV AND "PRG" ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN NGUYEN HUU THO. THO PREDICTABLY CLAIMED THAT THE "PRG" HAD MET SUCCESS IN THE POLITICAL, MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC FIELDS AND AFFIRMED THAT EVENTS OF THE PAST 16 MONTHS HAVE "PROVEN THE TREND OF INEVITABLE SUCCESS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE REVOLUTION." SIMILAR SATISFACTION WAS EXPRESSED BY BOTH "PRG" COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AND DRV VICE-PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH IN AN ADDRESS AT A HANOI RALLY ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 5. PHAT AND TRINH PRAISED "PRG" SUCCESSES AND CLAIMED THAT THE COMMUNIST POSITION WAS BETTER "THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE 1954".

2. THO, HOWEVER, HINTED AT POSSIBLE FRICTION WITHIN SOUTHERN COMMUNIST RANKS AND NOTED THAT THE NLFSV-"PRG" WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT "TO CONSOLIDATE AND STRENGTHEN" RELATIONS WITH THE VIETNAM ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL, DEMOCRATIC AND PEACE FORCES (VANDPF), WHOSE MEMBERSHIP REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN DEMORALIZED BY DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. THO ALSO PROMISED EFFORTS TO DEVELOP "NORMAL" RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DRV AND THE "PRG", AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO DEFLATE GVN OFFERS TO REGULARIZE NORTH-SOUTH TIES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS WITH HANOI. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

BEGIN SECRET/NOFORN.

PART II: INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. HANOI'S ECONOMIC MALAISE.

1. A YEAR AND A HALF AFTER THE CEASEFIRE, INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM NORTH VIETNAM INDICATE CONTINUED ECONOMIC STAGNATION. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES HAVE BECOME CONCERNED ENOUGH TO BEGIN TO ADMIT TO FOREIGN CONTACTS THAT RECONSTRUCTION IS GOING TO BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN THEY HAD IMAGINED LAST YEAR. THIS MORE HONEST

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 08255 02 OF 03 211350Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 DPW-01 EB-11 OMB-01 AGR-20 COME-00

TRSE-00 SR-02 ORM-03 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /186 W

----- 107746

P R 211145Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6064

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
RUESRW/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1881
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 08255 02 OF 03 211350Z

CO 7 PSYOPS GP
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USDAO/SAIGON

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 3 SAIGON 8255 NOFORN

SELF-APPRAISAL REPORTEDLY IS THE RESULT OF A PROPERTY CENSUS LAST FALL AND A POPULATION SURVEY ONE MONTH AGO WHICH REVEALED THE EXTENT OF WASTAGE, CORRUPTION AND INEFFICENCY IN THE SOCIETY.

2. WHILE SOME SOVIET BLOC ALLIES ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH INDIVIDUAL AID PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE EAST GERMAN EFFORT TO REBUILD THE CITY OF VINH, THE BASIC LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE NORTH CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE. MEAT IS INCREASINGLY UNAVAILABLE ON EITHER THE STATE OR THE FREE MARKETS. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, A RECENT TYPHOON DAMAGED THE 5TH MONTH RICE CROP AND OUTPUT MAY BE 15 OR 20 PERCENT LESS THAN IN MAY 1973. IN ADDITION, HANOI'S PLANNERS FEAR THAT CURRENT DELAYS IN HARVESTING THE FIFTH-MONTH SPRING CROP WILL

SIGNIFICANTLY EFFECT CULTIVATION OF THE MORE IMPORTANT TENTH-MONTH CROP MUCH OF WHICH IS GROWN IN THE SAME FIELDS AS THE FIFTH-MONTH SPRING CROP. A SEEDLING SHORTAGE AND THE APPARENT INABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MANAGERS TO MUSTER ADEQUATE LABOR ALREADY HAVE RESULTED IN EVIDENCE OF OFFICIAL NORTH VIETNAMESE CONCERN. GIVEN THESE DIFFICULTIES, NORTH VIETNAMESE RICE PRODUCTION THIS YEAR COULD FALL WELL BELOW 1973'S TOTAL YIELD, WHICH ITSELF FAILED TO MEET SUBSISTENCE REQUIREMENTS. THE REGIME ALREADY HAS RAISED THE PROPORTION OF SUBSTITUTES IN THE NORMAL RICE RATION TO 60 PERCENT AND FOOD PRICES ON THE STATE AND FREE (BLACK) MARKETS HAVE RISEN 13 AND 18 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR--A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN VIEW OF THE "CONTROLLED" CHARACTER OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMY. THE REGIME WILL HAVE TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD IMPORTS--ALREADY RUNNING AT RECORD LEVELS--TO COMPENSATE FOR THE PRODUCTION SHORTFALLS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SAIGON 08255 02 OF 03 211350Z

3. SOME HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY IN HANOI ITSELF BUT NOT ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE THE LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WHO CONTINUE TO POUR BACK INTO THE CITY FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE. OUTSIDE OF THE PRIME POPULATION CENTERS, CONSTRUCTION IS GOING MORE SLOWLY. HOUSING AND ROAD NETWORKS IN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PANHANDLE ARE PORTRAYED BY VISITORS AS VERY "POOR". ONE RECENT TRAVELLER DESCRIBED THE THATCHED ROOF HUTS USED TO HOUSE OFFICIAL VISITORS AS BEING "SUITABLE ONLY FOR PIGS." IN A FOUR DAY JOURNEY TO THE DMZ ANOTHER OBSERVER NOTED ONLY ONE BULLDOZER AND ONE HEAVY ROLLER ALTHOUGH ROADS WERE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE. HE ALSO COUNTED 10 WOMEN FOR EVERY ONE MALE WORKER IN THE FIELDS ALONG THE WAY--A RATIO WHICH REPORTEDLY IS TYPICAL OF THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. THE IMBALANCE HELPS TO ACCOUNT FOR SOME OF THE INEFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURE AND OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS WHERE HEAVY LABOR IS REQUIRED.

4. ALTHOUGH HANOI IS DETERMINED TO INCREASE EXPORTS AS A WAY OF EARNING BADLY NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE, OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY ARE NOW TELLING FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN THAT THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET 1974 ORDERS FOR SUCH ITEMS AS SILK AND RATTAN BECAUSE OF THE DIVERSION OF MANPOWER TO RECONSTRUCTION TASKS.

5. AS THE PRESSURES ON THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMY CONTINUE TO INCREASE, SO DOES CORRUPTION, AND IN SOME CASES THE REGIME IS HAVING TO BLINK AT CORRUPT PRACTICES WHICH HELP TO MEET IMMEDIATE CONSUMER DEMANDS. RECENT NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESS ARTICLES HAVE COMPLAINED OF THE FALSIFICATION OF STATISTICS, PARTICULARLY IN AGRICULTURE AND SEVERAL COOPERATIVES HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF LYING ABOUT CURRENT OUTPUT SO AS TO DEFLECT PRESSURE FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION. IN ADDITION, REPORTS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE INDICATE THAT AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF THE ARABLE LAND IS NOW BEING

USED FOR PRIVATE CULTIVATION, A PERCENTAGE WHICH EXCEEDS TACITLY SANCTIONED QUOTAS. EVEN ON THE BEST COOPERATIVES, MOREOVER, LABORERS REPORTEDLY AVERAGE ONLY 200 WORK DAYS A YEAR AND ONLY 80 PERCENT OF THE AVAILABLE LABOR FORCE SHOWS UP FOR WORK AT ANY ONE TIME. MEANWHILE, IN HANOI AND HAIPHONG AN ESTIMATED 25 PERCENT OF THE BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED ON THE FREE MARKET, WHICH IS ACCEPTED--THOUGH NOT OFFICIALLY APPROVED--BY THE REGIME AS A NECESSARY EVIL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SAIGON 08255 02 OF 03 211350Z

6. ALTHOUGH NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO SPEAK HOPEFULLY OF INTRODUCING A FIVE YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN IN 1976, THEY REPORTEDLY ARE LESS CONVINCED THAN THEY WERE LAST YEAR THAT BASIC RECONSTRUCTION TASKS, SUCH AS THE REPAIR OF ROADS, HOUSES AND ELECTRICAL FACILITIES CAN BE COMPLETED BY THAT TIME. THIS SCALING DOWN OF THEIR EXPECTATIONS HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN INTENSIFIED DRIVE FOR FOREIGN AID WHICH IS VIEWED AS ESSENTIAL TO FURTHER ECONOMIC PROGRESS. PARADOXICALLY, HOWEVER, THE REGIME HAS ONLY BEGUN TO PUSH THROUGH THE BUREAUCRATIC REFORMS WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO ASSURE THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF AVAILABLE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH HANOI AGREED LAST YEAR TO SET UP JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS WITH ITS PRIMARY AID DONORS TO OVERSEE AID UTILIZATION, THESE BODIES ONLY RECENTLY HAVE BEGUN TO MEET AND ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THE DISCUSSIONS, AT LEAST ON THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SIDE, REMAIN SIMPLISTIC AND UNFOCUSED. MOREOVER, IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH NON-COMMUNIST AID DONORS AND TRADING PARTNERS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE SHOWN NO APPRECIATION FOR PATENTS OR FOR INVESTMENT GUARANTEES WHICH ARE NEEDED TO ASSURE FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT. END SECRET/NOFORN.

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

B. NEW FINANCE MINISTER IDENTIFIED.

1. JUNE 3 RADIO HANOI COVERAGE OF A "RECENT" CONFERENCE OF DRV FINANCE MINISTRY CADRES REVEALED THE APPOINTMENT OF DAO THIEN THU AS MINISTER OF FINANCE, REPLACING DANG VIET CHAU WHO ON APRIL 2 WAS NAMED VICE-PREMIER IN CHARGE OF THE FINANCE, TRADE AND BANKING BLOC. ALTHOUGH LITTLE IS KNOWN OF THU'S BACKGROUND, HE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A VICE-MINISTER OF FINANCE SINCE AT LEAST JANUARY 1967. LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, THU HOLDS NO POSITION WITHIN THE VWP HIERARCHY, ALTHOUGH HE MAY BE A PARTY MEMBER.

END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

C. RADIO HANOI BACK ON THE BEAM.

1. HANOI'S "VOICE OF VIETNAM" INAUGURATED ON JUNE 16, 1974, ITS

"SUMMER" SCHEDULE OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN BROADCASTS, MAKING THE
RETURN TO A STABLE BROADCASTING PATTERN FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 SAIGON 08255 02 OF 03 211350Z

THE INTENSIVE U.S. BOMBING RAIDS ON THE NORTH IN DECEMBER 1972.

2. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF MONITORING DATA, HANOI

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 08255 03 OF 03 211407Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 DPW-01 EB-11 OMB-01 AGR-20 COME-00

TRSE-00 SR-02 ORM-03 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /186 W

----- 107789

P R 211145Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6065

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UESRW/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1882

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
USAJFKCMA
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CO 7 PSYOPS GP
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 08255 03 OF 03 211407Z

CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USDAO/SAIGON

S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 3 SAIGON 8255 NOFORN

RADIO APPEARS TO HAVE CORRECTED THE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHICH APPARENTLY STEMMED FROM BOMB DAMAGE TO TRANSMISSION FACILITIES AND ANCILLARY POWER SUPPLIES. IT HAS CONSOLIDATED ITS AWKWARD TWO NETWORK ARRANGEMENT FOR DOMESTIC AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE LISTENERS INTO A SINGLE NETWORK I, ADDING MORE SECONDARY FREQUENCIES--SOME NOT HEARD SINCE THE BOMBING--AND IN GENERAL STEPPING UP ITS BROADCASTER POWER. IN ADDITION, HANOI RADIO HAS CONVERTED ITS NETWORK II TO INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING IN THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGES: KOREAN, JAPANESE, CANTONESE, MANDARIN, CAMBODIAN, LAO, THAI, MALAY, INDONESIAN, ENGLISH, FRENCH, SPANISH AND MONTAGNARD. THE MALAY AND SPANISH PROGRAMMING IS NEW. ALTHOUGH SOME UPSWING IN THE VOLUME OF CAMBODIAN AND LAO PROGRAMMING MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, THE ANNOUNCED SCHEDULE FIXES THE DAILY BROADCAST TIME IN THESE LANGUAGES AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS BEFORE.

3. THE LONG-AWAITED "NORMALIZATION" OF HANOI RADIO SERVICES WAS FIRST INDICATED BY HANOI RADIO ON MAY 19 WHEN IT REPORTED THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW "TRANSMISSION STATION". THE PROJECT WAS "CARRIED OUT WITH CHINESE EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY" AND COMPLETED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF CHINESE TECHNICIANS A YEAR AFTER PLANNING AND SURVEY WORK COMMENCED IN RESPONSE TO THE "URGENT REQUIREMENTS OF PROPAGANDA WORK AT HOME AND ABROAD" (SEE BI-WEEKLY NO. 9 FOR OUR INITIAL REPORT ON THE NEW BROADCASTING FACILITIES). END CONFIDENTIAL. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

PART III: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

. COMMUNISTS DECRY "NEW" US COMMITMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SAIGON 08255 03 OF 03 211407Z

1. THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONTINUED THEIR PROPAGANDA ASSAULT ON US AID TO THE GVN. HANOI SEEMS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT THAT THE PARIS AGREEMENT ITSELF PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR A CONTINUING US OBLIGATION TO ASSIST THE GVN. THE COMMUNISTS ARE ALSO INCENSED OVER THE SECRETARY'S PROMISE TO PROVIDE CONGRESS WITH A FIVE-YEAR AID PROGRAM BY AUGUST 1.

2. A JUNE 11 "NHAN DAN" (SEE FBIS SAIGON 111210 JUNE 74) ARTICLE BYLINED "COMMENTATOR" COVERED THE ABOVE POINTS AND WENT ON TO ATTACK THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY FOR HAVING "BETRAYED... THE U.S. COMMITMENTS AND HIS OWN SIGNATURE". THE "COMMENTATOR" ADROITLY SIDE-STEPPED THE ISSUE OF SECRET UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN THE US AND DRV, ALLEGING ACIDLY THAT US VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AS WRITTEN WERE SUFFICIENT TO PROVE ITS ILL-INTENT.

3. ON JUNE 12, BOTH LIBERATION RADIO (SEE S120930 JUNE 74) AND RADIO HANOI (S140225 JUNE 74) REPORTED, WITH EVIDENT DISAPPOINTMENT, THAT THE SENATE HAD APPROVED LEGISLATION CALLING FOR \$900 MILLION IN MILITARY AID TO THE GVN DURING FY 1975.

END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

B. DRV MOSCOW, PEKING ENVOYS RETURN HOME.

1. NGO THUYEN AND VO THUC DONG, DRV AMBASSADORS TO THE PRC AND USSR, RESPECTIVELY, ARE RETURNING TO HANOI ACCORDING TO HOST COUNTRY PRESS REPORTS. NCNA NOTED ON JUNE 8 THAT THUYEN HAD "LEFT HIS POST FOR MOMENT" AND, ACCORDING TO RADIO MOSCOW (FBIS LONDON 141331 JUNE 74), DONG CALLED ON KONSTANTIN KATUSHEV IN CONNECTION WITH HIS FORTHCOMING DEPARTURE FOR HOME". NEITHER AMBASSADOR'S RETURN HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN HANOI MEDIA.

2. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY HANOI WOULD CHOOSE TO BRING HOME ITS TWO MOST IMPORTANT ENVOYS AT THIS TIME. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE RECALLS PRESAGE A RETURN OF DRV DIPLOMATS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. HANOI HAS IN THE PAST SUMMONED HOME ITS TOP-RANKING DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL PERIODICALLY TO BRIEF THEM ON NEW PARTY LINES AND POLICIES.

C. TRUONG CHINH GOES HOME.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SAIGON 08255 03 OF 03 211407Z

VWP POLITBURO MEMBER TRUONG CHINH RETURNED TO HANOI JUNE 11 FOLLOWING NEARLY A MONTH'S ABSENCE, DURING WHICH HE LED A DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY. FOR AS YET UNEXPLAINED REASONS, MADE MORE CURIOUS BY THE HIGHLY PROPAGANDISTIC NATURE OF HIS VISITS, CHINH DROPPED FROM PUBLIC VIEW FOR OVER A WEEK PRIOR TO HIS OFFICIAL DEPARTURE FROM HUNGARY (JUNE 7). END CONFIDENTIAL. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

D. LAO DELEGATIONS IN HANOI.

1. ON JUNE 8, A LAO CIVIL AVIATION DELEGATION ARRIVED IN HANOI TO NEGOTIATE AND CONCLUDE A DRV-RLG PROTOCOL ON AIRTRANSPORT. ALTHOUGH ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL INCLUDED NO INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ROUTES, A VIENTIANE-SAM NEUA-HANOI CIRCUIT IS LIKELY. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD FACILITATE SAM NEUA-VIENTIANE TRAVEL OF PATHET LAO LEADERS, WHO NOW MUST USE THE LONGER SAM NEUA-HANOI-VIENTIANE ROUTE. THE AGREEMENT PROBABLY WILL PROVIDE FOR ROYAL AIR LAO SERVICE TO CHINA VIA THE DRV CAPITAL AND MAY SEE HANOI'S CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION EXTEND ITS SERVICE TO INCLUDE VIENTIANE.

2. IN KEEPING WITH ITS APPARENT DISREGARD FOR SUCH FRILLS AS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, HANOI ALSO IS PLAYING HOST TO A LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT CENTRAL POSTAL SERVICE DELEGATION. THE DELEGATION, WHICH ARRIVED IN HANOI JUNE 10, WILL CONCLUDE A POSTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE DRV. ALTHOUGH SUCH AGREEMENTS USUALLY ARE CONCLUDED BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, THE DRV APPARENTLY IS OPERATING ON THE BASIS OF THE PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED BY A HANOI-LPF ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SIGNED SHORTLY AFTER HANOI'S ENTHUSIASTIC APPROVAL OF THE LAO COALITION (SEE NORTH VIET-NAM BI-WEEKLY NO 7).

E. MADAME BINH ATTENDS OAU SUMMIT.

1. VIET CONG FOREIGN MINISTER MADAME NGUYEN THI BINH ATTENDED THE ORGANIZATION FOR AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN MOGADISCIO JUNE 12 AND 13. BINH ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLED BIGWIGS ON JUNE 13 AND PANDERED THE STANDARD PROPAGANDA LINE. DURING HER SOMALIAN STAY SHE HELD TALKS WITH THE HOST CHIEF OF STATE, THE PRESIDENTS OF SENEGAL, CONGO (B), THE MAURITANIAN PRIME MINISTER AND THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 SAIGON 08255 03 OF 03 211407Z

2. VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE DEVOTED LITTLE ATTENTION TO BINH'S CURRENT TRIP. THE ONLY CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENT DURING THE

JOURNEY THUS FAR HAS BEEN THE MALAGASY REPUBLIC'S RECOGNITION
OF THE "PRG", A FACT WHICH MIGHT EXPLAIN HANOI'S DISINCLINATION
TO PUBLICIZE BINH'S ACTIVITIES EXTENSIVELY. HER WHEREABOUTS
BETWEEN JUNE 13 AND 19 ARE NOT KNOWN BUT, ON THE LATTER DATE,
SHE ARRIVED IN ADEN.
MARTIN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL CONDUCT, ARMISTICE, TREATY VIOLATION, INFILTRATION, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, RECOGNITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON08255
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740163-0254
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740624/aaaaauet.tel
Line Count: 607
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 12
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY SAIGON'S NORTH VIET-NAM BI-WEEKLY BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W; CINCPAC FOR POLAD;
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ECON, VS, PRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005